

Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Additional Estimates Hearing – February 2010

Department of Finance and Deregulation

Finance and Deregulation Portfolio

Outcome 3, Program 3.1

Topic: Electorate office relocations

Question reference number: F34

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Senator Ronaldson asked:

Minister, can I ask you again, and Mr Miles may want to answer this question: my understanding is that under the previous government—and there were three Special Ministers of State—on not one occasion was an end-of-lease relocation request knocked back. I am happy for you to take that on notice. If indeed that is correct—and that is my understanding—then clearly there was a precedent over at least 11 years, I think it was—

Answer:

On the information that is currently accessible to the Department, there were three occasions under the previous government where requests to relocate an electorate office at the end of a lease were not approved:

| Year | Senator/Member | Reason |
|-------------|--|--|
| 1996 | Member for Mitchell | Budgetary constraints |
| 2003 | Member for Lingiari (second office) | Considerable monies spent on the existing office within the previous three years |
| 2007 | Senator for Victoria | Higher than normal market cost for fitout of proposed office |